

States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (8), the following:

“(8A) ‘flexible fuel automobile’ means an automobile described in paragraph (8)(A).”.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 329 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 32902 the following:

“Sec. 32902A. Requirement to manufacture flexible fuel automobiles”.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue regulations to carry out the amendments made by subsection (a).

(2) HARDSHIP EXEMPTION.—The regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include a process by which a manufacturer may be exempted from the requirement under section 32902A(a) upon demonstrating that such requirement would create a substantial economic hardship for the manufacturer.

SEC. 512. INCREASING CONSUMER AWARENESS OF FLEXIBLE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.

Section 32908 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) INCREASING CONSUMER AWARENESS OF FLEXIBLE FUEL AUTOMOBILES.—(1) The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall prescribe regulations that require the manufacturer of automobiles distributed in interstate commerce for sale in the United States—

“(A) to prominently display a permanent badge or emblem on the quarter panel or tailgate of each such automobile that indicates such vehicle is capable of operating on alternative fuel; and

“(B) to include information in the owner’s manual of each such automobile information that describes—

“(i) the capability of the automobile to operate using alternative fuel;

“(ii) the benefits of using alternative fuel, including the renewable nature, and the environmental benefits of using alternative fuel; and

“(C) to contain a fuel tank cap that is clearly labeled to inform consumers that the automobile is capable of operating on alternative fuel.

“(2) The Secretary of Transportation shall collaborate with automobile retailers to develop voluntary methods for providing prospective purchasers of automobiles with information regarding the benefits of using alternative fuel in automobiles, including—

“(A) the renewable nature of alternative fuel; and

“(B) the environmental benefits of using alternative fuel.”.

SEC. 513. PERIODIC REVIEW OF ACCURACY OF FUEL ECONOMY LABELING PROCEDURES.

Beginning in December, 2009, and not less often than every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall—

(1) reevaluate the fuel economy labeling procedures described in the final rule published in the Federal Register on December 27, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 77,872; 40 C.F.R. parts 86 and 600) to determine whether changes in the factors used to establish the labeling procedures warrant a revision of that process; and

(2) submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce that describes the results of the reevaluation process.

SEC. 514. TIRE FUEL EFFICIENCY CONSUMER INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 30123 the following new section:

“§ 30123A. Tire fuel efficiency consumer information

“(a) RULEMAKING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall, after notice and opportunity for comment, promulgate rules establishing a national tire fuel efficiency consumer information program for tires designed for use on motor vehicles to educate consumers about the effect of tires on automobile fuel efficiency.

“(2) ITEMS INCLUDED IN RULE.—The rulemaking shall include—

“(A) a national tire fuel efficiency rating system for motor vehicle tires to assist consumers in making more educated tire purchasing decisions;

“(B) requirements for providing information to consumers, including information at the point of sale and other potential information dissemination methods, including the Internet;

“(C) specifications for test methods for manufacturers to use in assessing and rating tires to avoid variation among test equipment and manufacturers; and

“(D) a national tire maintenance consumer education program including, information on tire inflation pressure, alignment, rotation, and tread wear to maximize fuel efficiency.

“(3) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall not apply to tires excluded from coverage under section 575.104(c)(2) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on date of enactment of the Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act.

“(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on the means of conveying tire fuel efficiency consumer information.

“(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall conduct periodic assessments of the rules promulgated under this section to determine the utility of such rules to consumers, the level of cooperation by industry, and the contribution to national goals pertaining to energy consumption. The Secretary shall transmit periodic reports detailing the findings of such assessments to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce.

“(d) TIRE MARKING.—The Secretary shall not require permanent labeling of any kind on a tire for the purpose of tire fuel efficiency information.

“(e) PREEMPTION.—When a requirement under this section is in effect, a State or political subdivision of a State may adopt or enforce a law or regulation on tire fuel efficiency consumer information only if the law or regulation is identical to that requirement. Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt a State or political subdivision of a State from regulating the fuel efficiency of tires not otherwise preempted under this chapter.”.

(b) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 30165(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) SECTION 30123a.—Any person who fails to comply with the national tire fuel efficiency consumer information program under section 30123A is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$50,000 for each violation.”.

(c) Conforming Amendment.—The chapter analysis for chapter 301 of title 49, United

States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 30123 the following:

“30123A. Tire fuel efficiency consumer information”.

SEC. 515. ADVANCED BATTERY INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall establish and carry out an Advanced Battery Initiative in accordance with this section to support research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of battery technologies.

(b) INDUSTRY ALLIANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall competitively select an Industry Alliance to represent participants who are private, for-profit firms headquartered in the United States, the primary business of which is the manufacturing of batteries.

(c) RESEARCH.—

(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall carry out research activities of the Initiative through competitively-awarded grants to—

(A) researchers, including Industry Alliance participants;

(B) small businesses;

(C) National Laboratories; and

(D) institutions of higher education.

(2) INDUSTRY ALLIANCE.—The Secretary shall annually solicit from the Industry Alliance—

(A) comments to identify advanced battery technology and battery systems needs relevant to—

(i) electric drive technology;

(ii) portable radio communications devices, including devices used by public safety personnel; and

(iii) other applications the Secretary deems appropriate;

(B) an assessment of the progress of research activities of the Initiative; and

(C) assistance in annually updating advanced battery technology and battery systems roadmaps.

(d) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—The information and roadmaps developed under this section shall be available to the public.

(e) PREFERENCE.—In making awards under this subsection, the Secretary shall give preference to participants in the Industry Alliance.

(f) COST SHARING.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall require cost sharing in accordance with section 120(b) of title 23, United States Code.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

SEC. 516. BIODIESEL STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Energy, shall promulgate regulations to ensure that all diesel-equivalent fuels derived from renewable biomass that are introduced into interstate commerce are tested and certified to comply with appropriate American Society for Testing and Materials standards.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BIODIESEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “biodiesel” means the monoalkyl esters of long chain fatty acids derived from plant or animal matter that meet—

(i) the registration requirements for fuels and fuel additives established by the Environmental Protection Agency under section 211 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545); and

(ii) the requirements of the American Society of Testing and Materials D6751.